

Natural Resources Commission Meeting



NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries
November 8, 2012

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- Updates
 - Wildlife Division Update
 - Deer Season Forecast
 - Wildlife Damage and Nuisance Control Permits
 - Cable Restraints Update
- NRC – Info
 - Bobcat Registration Requirements (WCO Amendment No. 16 of 2012)
- Director – Info
 - Order to Regulate Use of Kirtland's Warbler Areas (Land Use Order No. 14 of 2012)



Thank You



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Wildlife Division Update



Russ Mason, Chief
Wildlife Division
November 8, 2012



December Elk Hunt check station

- December 8-16, 8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Atlanta check station
 - Weighing, recording kill sites, aging the elk, collecting incisors
- Dress warm!



Kirtland's Warbler Nesting Areas

- Closure May 1 – August 15
- Updates reflect current nesting data







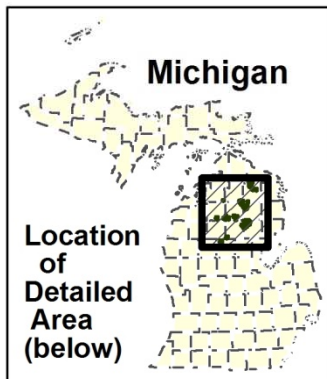


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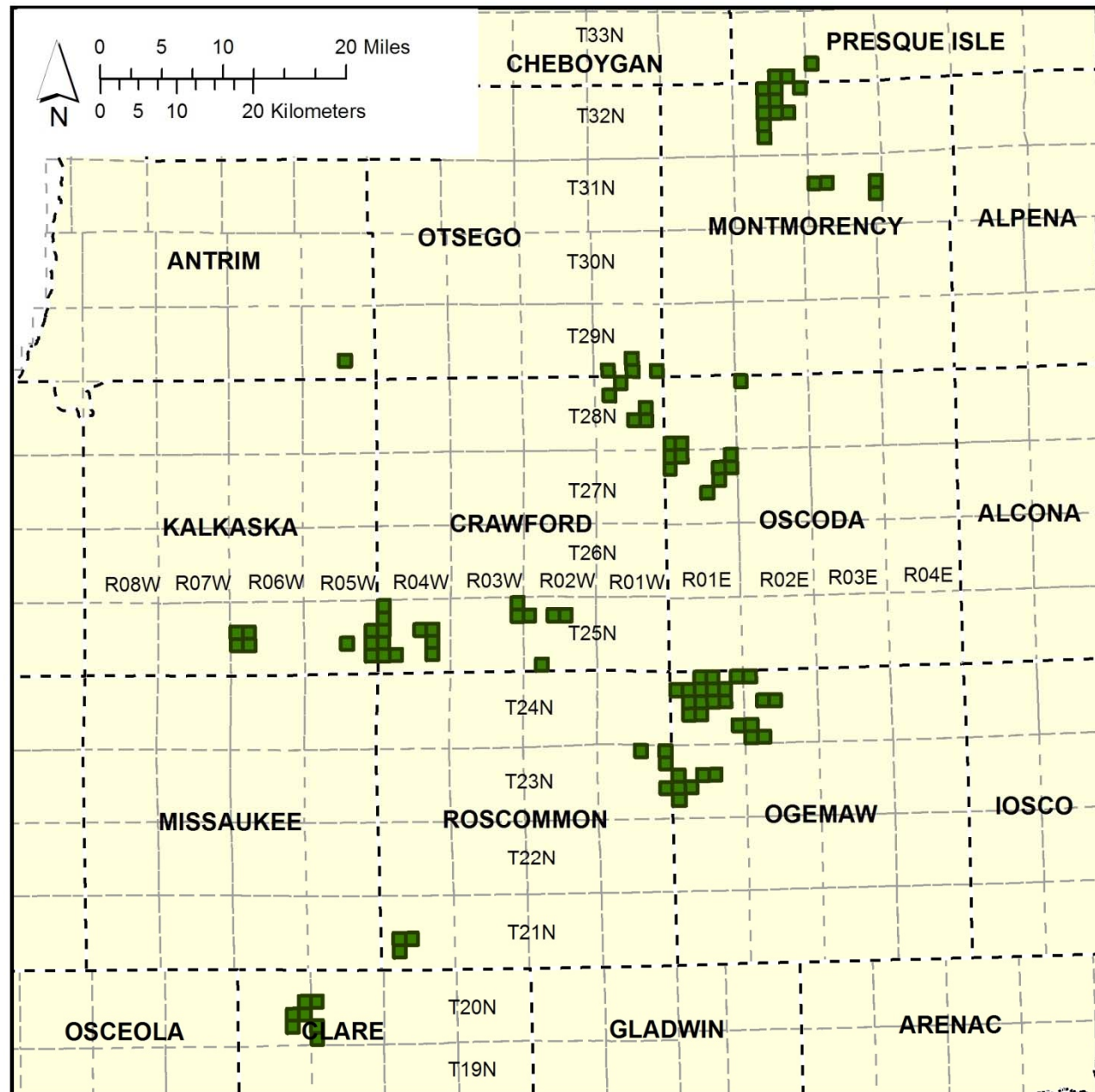
Proposed 2013 Kirtland's Warbler Protected Nesting Areas

Legend

-  Proposed 2013 Kirtland's Warbler Protected Nesting Areas shown by PLSS town-range-section blocks
-  Township-Range block boundaries
-  County boundaries
-  Michigan land (background)



Rev. 2012-11-02 -WLD/MLS



Thank You



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Wildlife & Habitat
Featured Species

2012 Deer Season Status and Forecast



Brent Rudolph, Deer and Elk Program Leader
Wildlife Division
November 8, 2012



Deer Season Status and Forecast

- Overview of deer hunting in Michigan
- Experiences thus far in 2012
- Expectations as season progresses

...summary document posted online:

2012 Michigan Deer Hunting: Status and Prospects

www.michigan.gov/deer



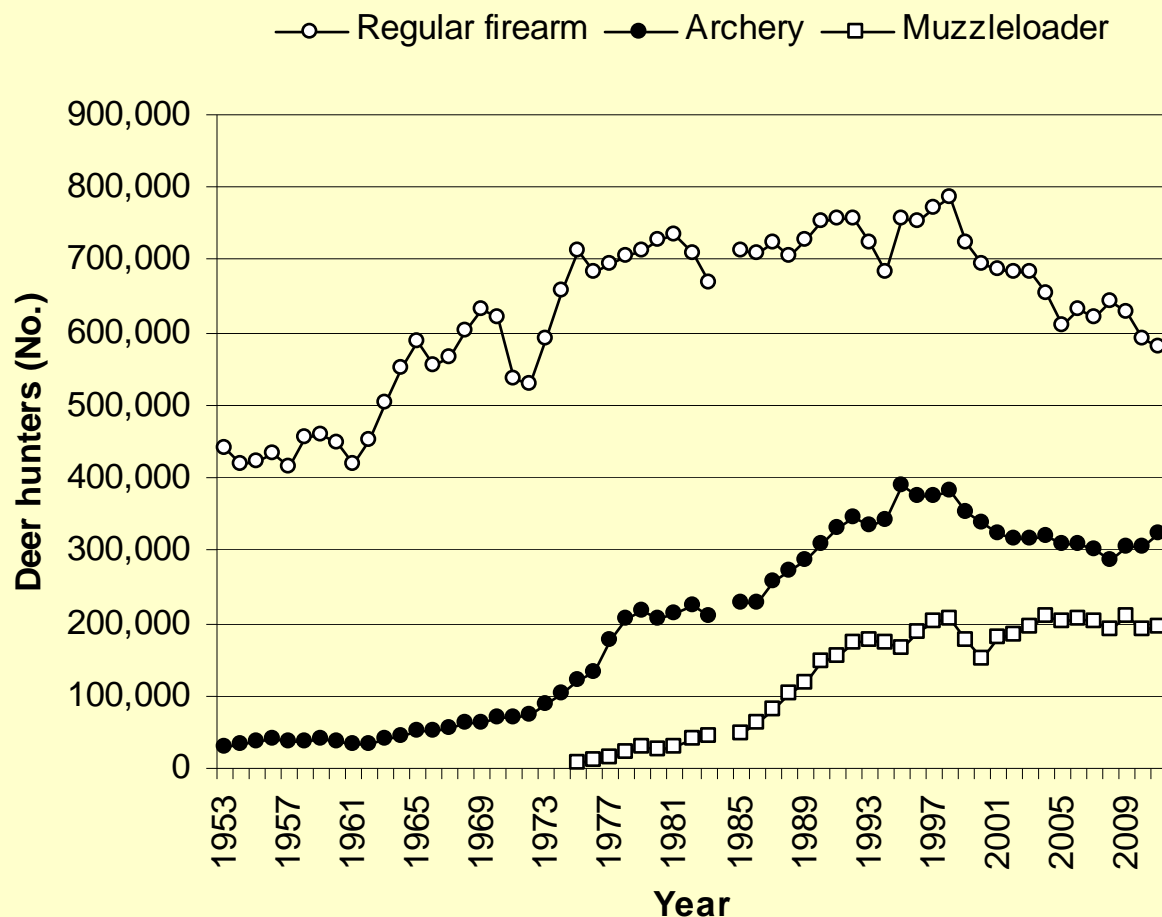
Michigan Deer Hunting Overview

In each of the last few years...

- About 700,000 individuals purchased a license to hunt deer in Michigan
- More than 9.6 million days were spent afield
- Over 400,000 deer have been harvested
- Deer hunting has produced an annual economic impact of more than \$500 million and directly supports more than 5,300 Michigan jobs



Estimated Number of People Hunting Deer in Michigan, Long-term Trends (1953-2011)



Approximate participants:

- 600,000 firearm
- 300,000 archery
- 200,000 muzzleloader

Number of people hunting deer in Michigan during the regular firearm, archery, and muzzleloader seasons, 1953-2011.



Typical Deer & Hunter Patterns

- November 15 and late Oct/early Nov archery hunting tend to be most active
- Deer activity highest a few weeks before breeding
- Breeding peaks just prior to firearm opener
 - Earliest in Southern Lower Peninsula
 - Breeding of fawns leads to another late Nov peak
- 2012 drought = poor/spotty mast production
 - When focused on feeding, deer distribution will be affected



2012 Observations to Date

- Reduced days open for September deer hunting (11 days in 2011, 2 in 2012)
 - Early antlerless season (select Lower Peninsula areas)
 - Concurrent statewide youth & veteran season
- Deer checked: down approximately 15%
- Individuals that have purchased licenses: +3%
- Kill tags purchased: +1%



Population Trend and Expectations

Upper Peninsula

- Snow accumulation below average for 3 winters
- Growing deer population (though trends in buck harvest and deer-vehicle collisions remain below 20-year average)
- 2012 antlerless quota increase of 9.5%
- Improved recruitment should increase available yearling and 2 ½ year-old bucks



Population Trend and Expectations

Northern Lower Peninsula

- Third mild winter has allowed steady population increase across most of region, though trends vary across the 36 DMUs
- 2012 small antlerless license quota increases in west and central portions
- Elsewhere, quotas reduced



Population Trend and Expectations

Southern Lower Peninsula

- Population appears stabilized or reduced over past 5-10 years
- *When planning 2012 recommendations...*
 - Repeated EHD outbreaks in southwest corner
 - Population should recover over a few years
 - Communications regarding EHD to be increased
 - 2012 outbreaks may warrant regulatory action in 2013
- 2012 antlerless quotas were reduced:
 - Private land to 519,650 (down from 523,800 in 2011)
 - Public land to 33,950 (down from 36,300 in 2011)



Population Trend and Expectations

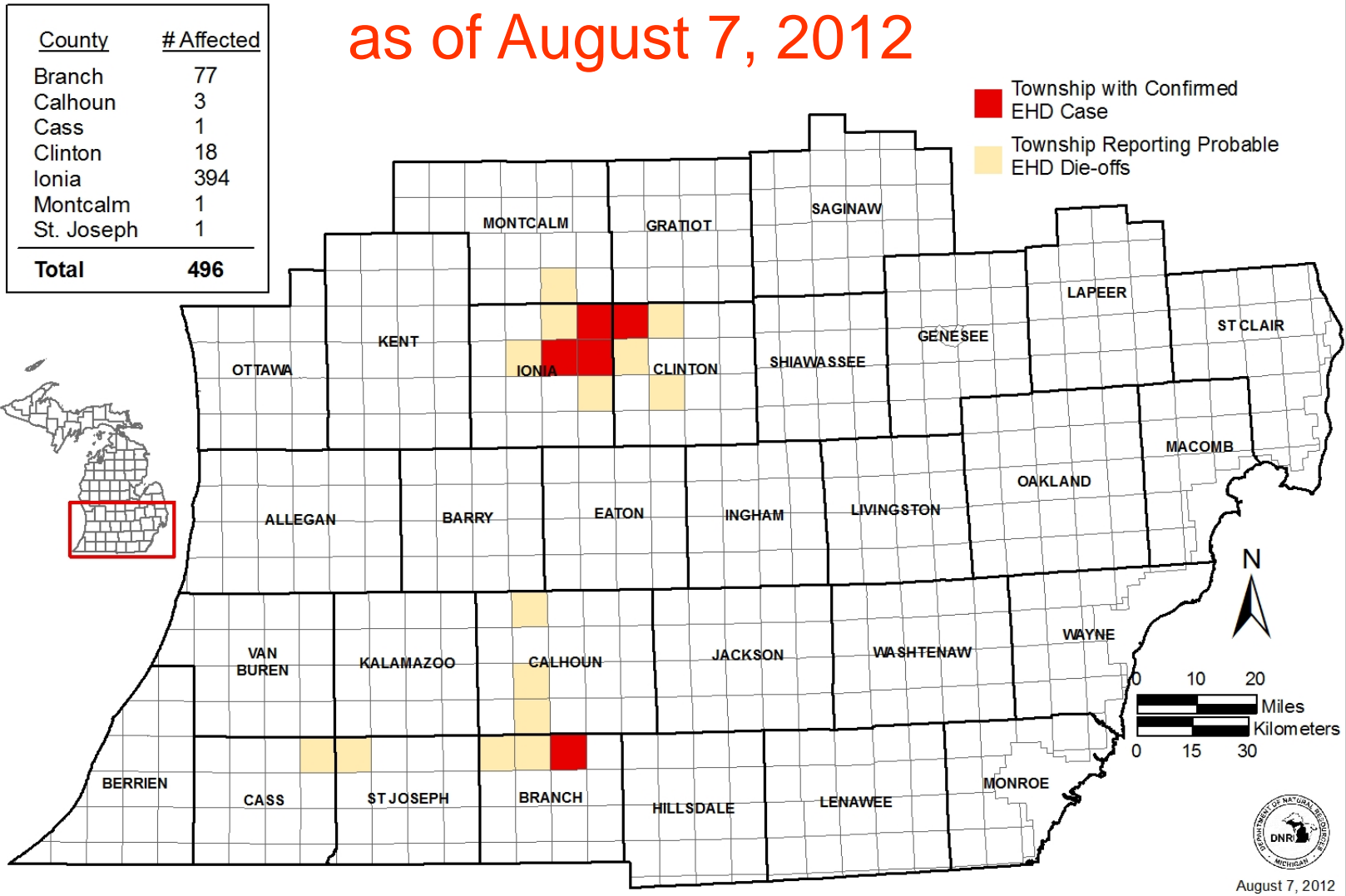
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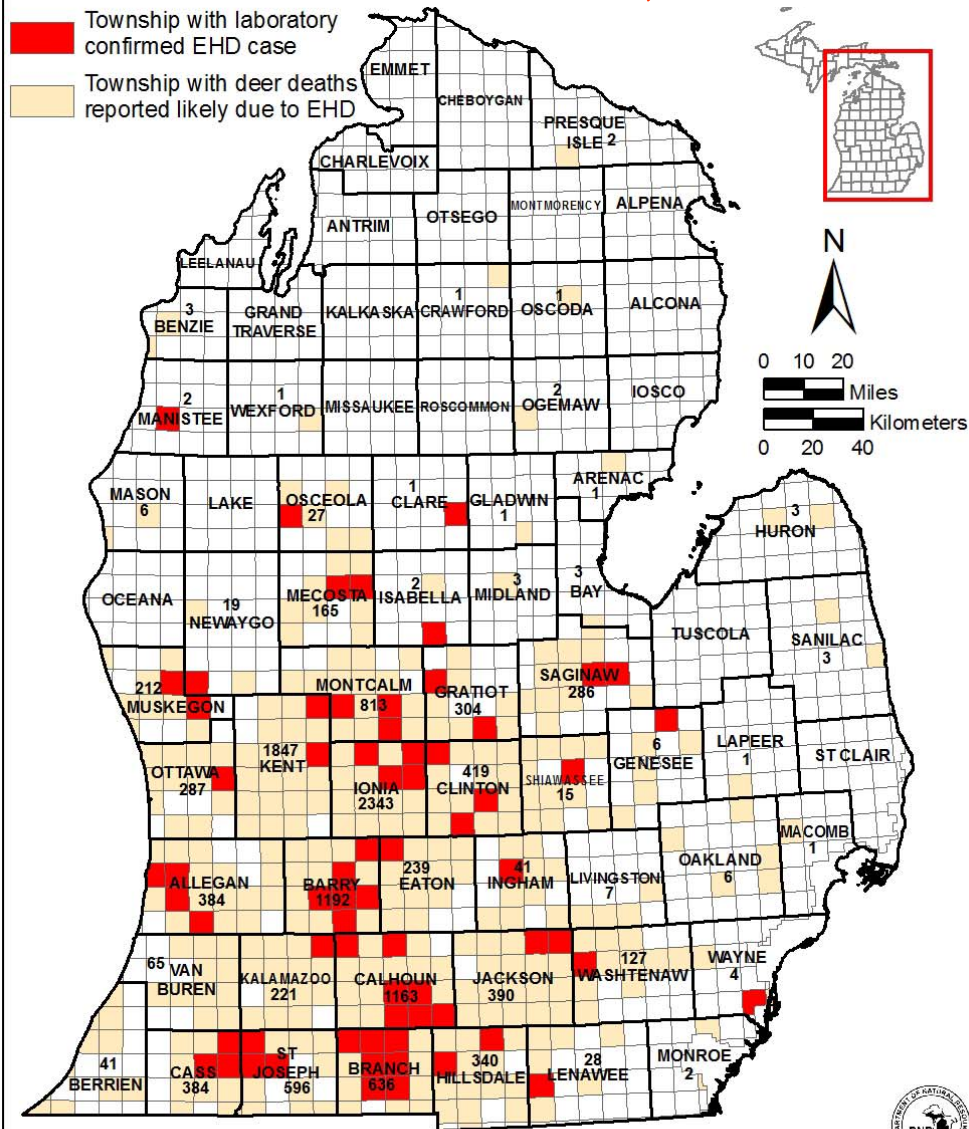
**...WHAT WE SAID THIS SPRING.
WHAT WE HAVE OBSERVED...**

Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) Reported and Confirmed Mortalities in White-tailed Deer

as of August 7, 2012



Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) Surveillance in Michigan White-tailed Deer as of October 30, 2012

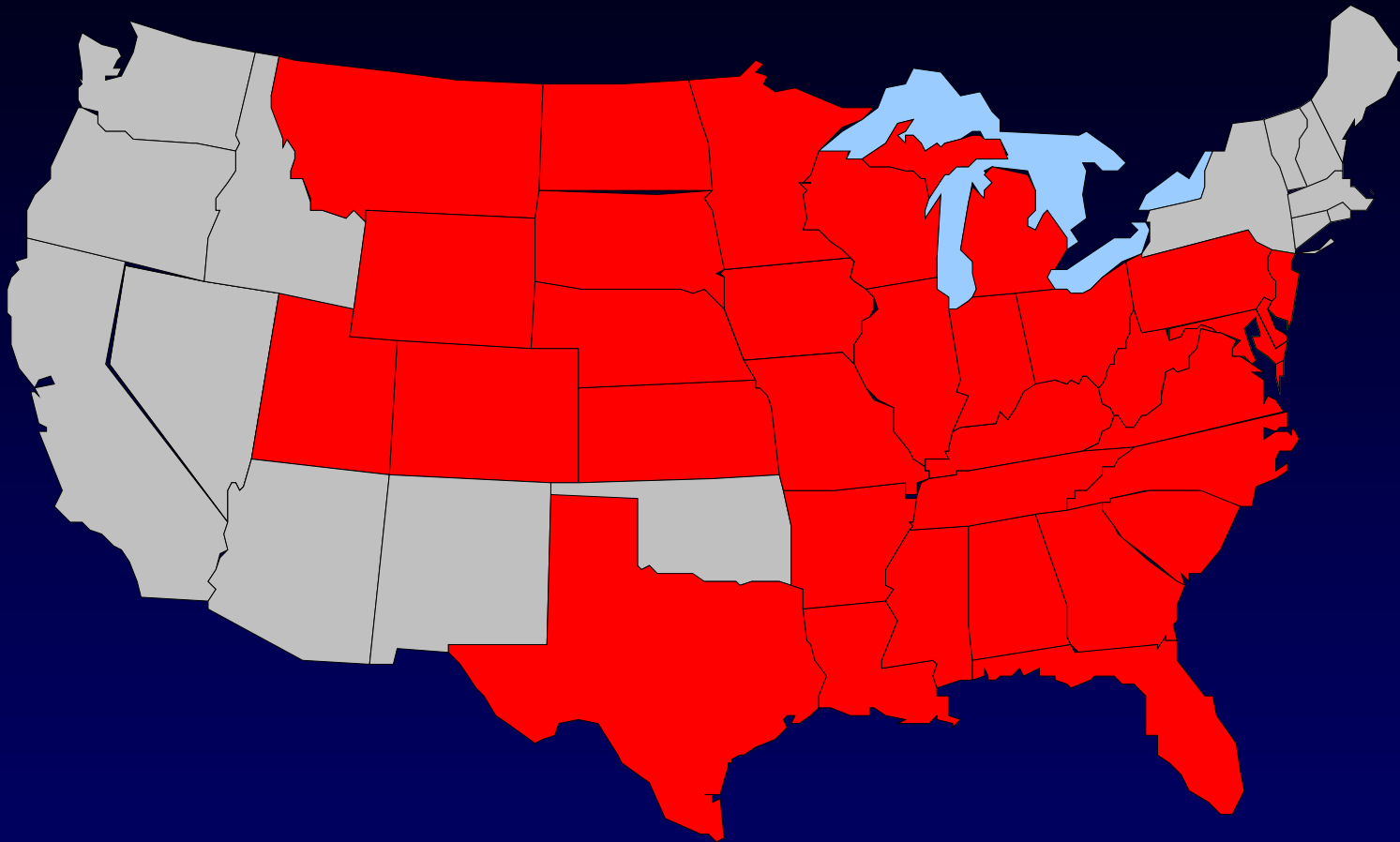


12,646 white-tailed deer have been reported dead as possible EHD cases. Numbers within each county equal the number of reports for that county.

Rev. Oct. 30, 2012

County	Deer	County	Deer
Allegan	384	Lenawee	28
Arenac	1	Livingston	7
Barry	1,192	Macomb	1
Bay	3	Manistee	2
Benzie	3	Mason	6
Berrien	41	Mecosta	165
Branch	636	Midland	3
Calhoun	1,163	Monroe	2
Cass	384	Montcalm	813
Clare	1	Muskegon	212
Clinton	419	Newaygo	19
Crawford	1	Oakland	6
Eaton	239	Ogemaw	2
Genesee	6	Osceola	27
Gladwin	1	Oscoda	1
Gratiot	304	Ottawa	287
Hillsdale	340	Presque Isle	2
Huron	3	Saginaw	286
Ingham	41	Sanilac	3
Ionia	2,343	Shiawassee	15
Isabella	2	St. Joseph	596
Jackson	390	Van Buren	65
Kalamazoo	221	Washtenaw	127
Kent	1,847	Wayne	4
Lapeer	1	Wexford	1
		Total	12,646

2012 EHD Die-Offs in Wild White-tailed Deer and Mule Deer



33 States

This could be the biggest year for EHD Die-Offs



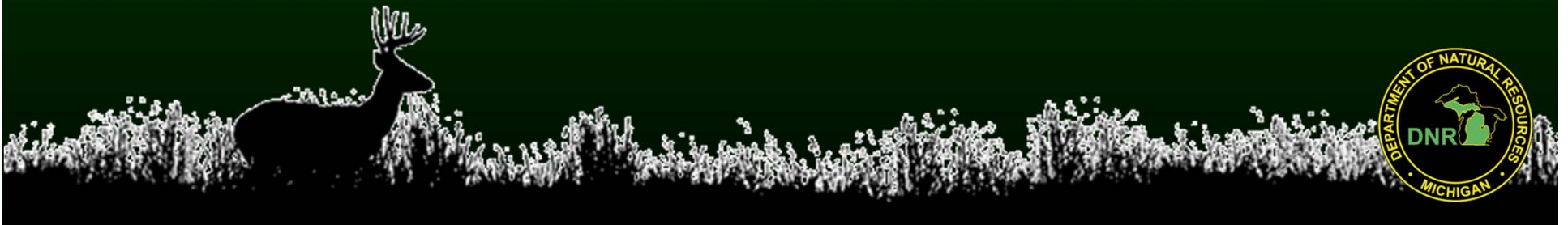
EHD Response

- Widespread public assistance with monitoring
- Weekly updates of map and reported totals
<http://www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases> → EHD
- Local meetings in areas most heavily hit
- MUCC Board Meeting presentation
- Many press releases and extensive media coverage (print, radio, and TV)
- Posters at license sales terminals
- Check station handouts and data collection



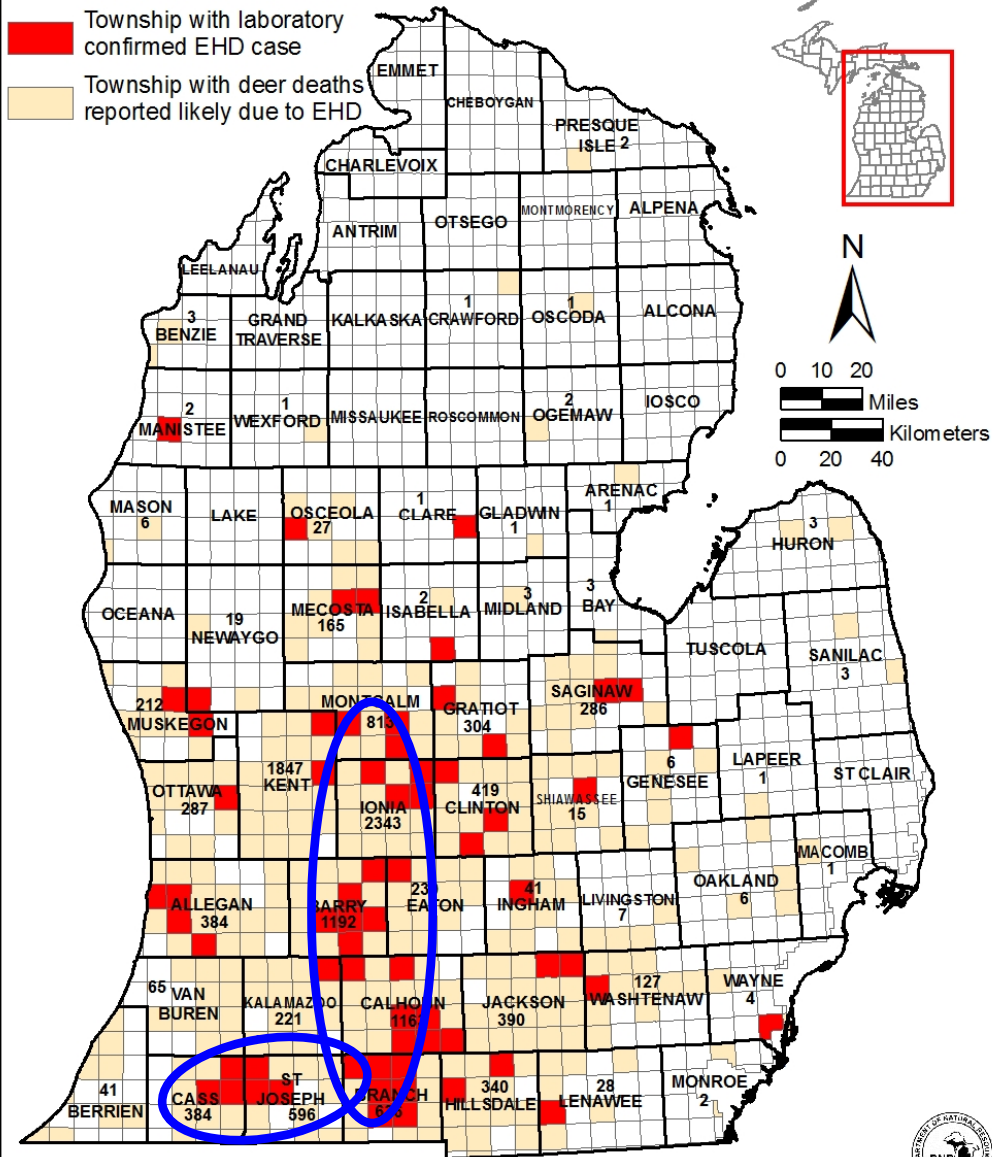
EHD Implications and Trends

- Losses are disheartening, for deer hunters, public in general, and Department staff
- Wherever EHD has emerged in the past, losses have been localized and populations recovered within 2-3 years
- After only 2 early instances, Michigan has experienced outbreaks in 6 of past 7 years



Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) Surveillance in Michigan White-tailed Deer

-as of October 30, 2012-



12,646 white-tailed deer have been reported dead as possible EHD cases. Numbers within each county equal the number of reports for that county.

Rev. Oct. 30, 2012

- 2012 harvest should be less due to losses and/or hunter response
- Localized effects will accumulate where current & past outbreaks most severe
- Reports help, but cannot replace local observations



Thank You



www.michigan.gov/deer

Wildlife Damage and Nuisance Control



Adam Bump, Bear and Furbearer Specialist
Wildlife Division
November 8, 2012



Wildlife Damage and Nuisance Control

- WCO 15 proposes to modify permit requirements and regulations for Wildlife Damage and Nuisance Control, at the request of professional associations
- Director has asked for a workgroup to be formed to resolve concerns
- DNR WLD will create workgroup
 - Will include representatives from major organizations, interest groups, and other stakeholders
- Withdraw WCO 15
- Comments from individuals today will still be recorded and used to help inform workgroup discussions



Bobcat Registration Requirements



Bobcat Registration Requirements

- Current conditions require staff to collect the entire skull
- Proposal to allow staff to collect a tooth instead of entire skull to increase customer satisfaction
- Continue retaining entire skull for testing, when available, to ensure:
 - adequate genetic samples,
 - undamaged tooth submitted for aging, and
 - better efficiency during registration.





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Cable Restraints Update



Brief History

- Cable restraints (live-restraining snares) were first allowed in 2001
 - Designed to provide a winter coyote tool on private land, allowed retention of foxes caught in cable restraints
- Modifications made in 2004 and 2005 to address some concerns with regulations
 - Take of non-targets



Brief History

- 2004 and 2005 changes were discussed at length with trappers and houndsmen
 - *Houndsmen* - concerns over dog losses
 - *Trappers* - concerns over effectiveness of the tool
 - Discussions have occurred since that time with both *trappers* and *houndsmen*
 - In general, *houndsmen* are willing to accept current regulations and do not report losses of dogs with current regulations
 - *Trappers* do not feel the tool is effective



Brief History

- Small group formed in 2010-2011 with houndsmen and trappers to look for a compromise solution
 - Evaluated issue, reviewed research
 - Recommended additional research
- Research to evaluate effectiveness of various cable restraint set-ups



Research Summary



Study #1 (Winter 2008-2009 and 2009-2010): Evaluation Of Two Cable Neck-Restraints With Minimum Loop Stops To Live-Capture Coyotes

Study Design

- ✓ Test capture efficiency and lethality of 2 cable restraints for capturing coyotes; one with a 4.25" minimum loop stop (presently **legal** in MI) and the other with a 3.5" minimum loop stop (presently **not legal** in MI).

Results

- ✓ 3.5" stop had higher capture efficiency (100 % capture rate; 11 of 11 coyotes held)
 - ✓ 2 of 11 coyotes captured found dead in cable restraint
- ✓ 4.25" stop had less efficiency (64% capture rate; 14 of 22 coyotes held)
 - ✓ 3 of 14 coyotes captured found dead in cable restraint
- ✓ Entanglement and debris in catch circle likely played a role in 3 coyote deaths

Results of this study were peer reviewed and published: Etter, D. R., and J. L. Belant. 2011. Evaluation of 2 cable restraints with minimum loop stops to capture coyotes. Wildlife Society Bulletin 35:403–408.



Study #2 (Winter 2010-2011): A Cable Neck-Restraint to Live-Capture Coyotes

Study Design

- ✓ Attempt to develop a “cable restraint trapping system” that reduces mortality to captured coyotes and maintains high capture efficiency.

2 modifications from original study:

- a) Does elimination of entanglement reduce mortality of captured coyotes?
- b) Used a reverse bend washer lock drilled out to 2X cable diameter and 3.5” minimum loop stop. This modification resulted in a more effective relaxation of the cable loop. Would this cable restraint maintain high capture efficiency?

Results

- ✓ 3.5” stop had higher capture efficiency (100 % capture rate; 20 of 20 coyotes held)
 - ✓ No coyotes captured found dead in cable restraints
- ✓ 3.5” minimum loop with modified locks had less efficiency (71% capture rate; 20 of 28 coyotes held)
 - ✓ No coyotes captured found dead in cable restraints
- ✓ External examination and necropsies indicated no significant injuries to coyotes due to capture.

Results of this study are in review with the Wildlife Society Bulletin



Current Status

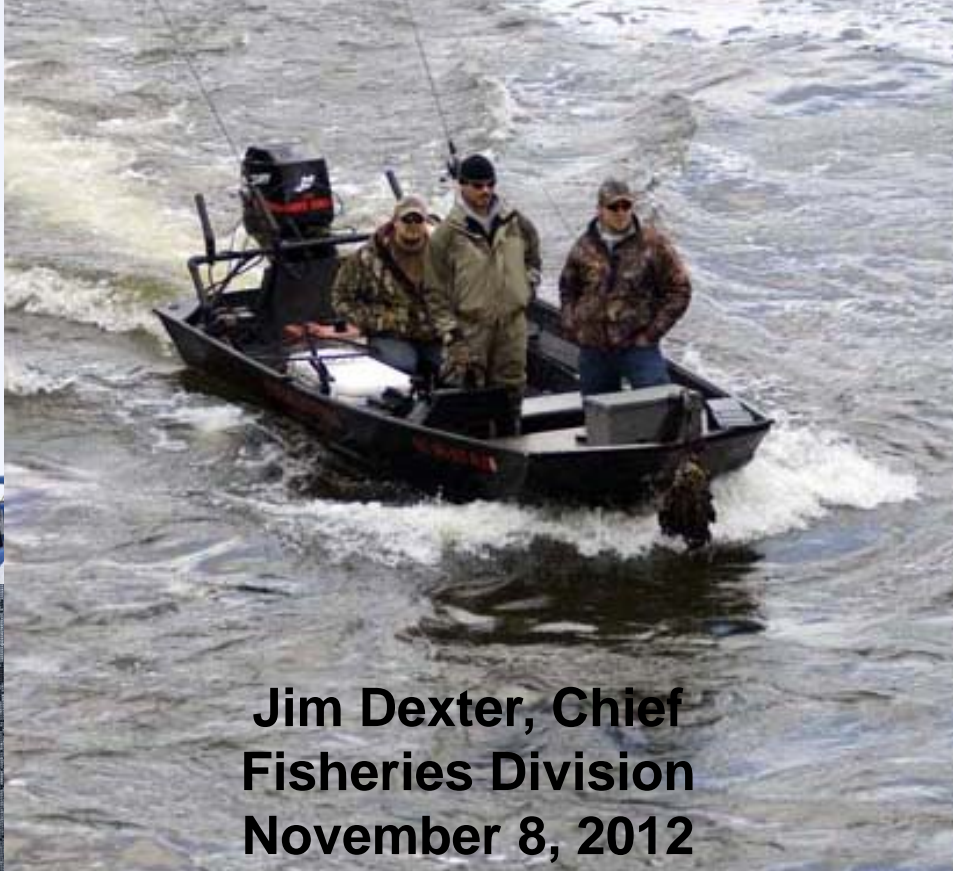
- No changes recommended in 2011
- Not reviewing for potential change in 2013
- Consensus solution?





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Fisheries Division Update



**Jim Dexter, Chief
Fisheries Division
November 8, 2012**



For Action: FO - 200, Statewide Trout, Salmon, Whitefish and Lake Herring Regulations

- Brook trout bag limit increase to 10/day



Brook Trout Bag Limits

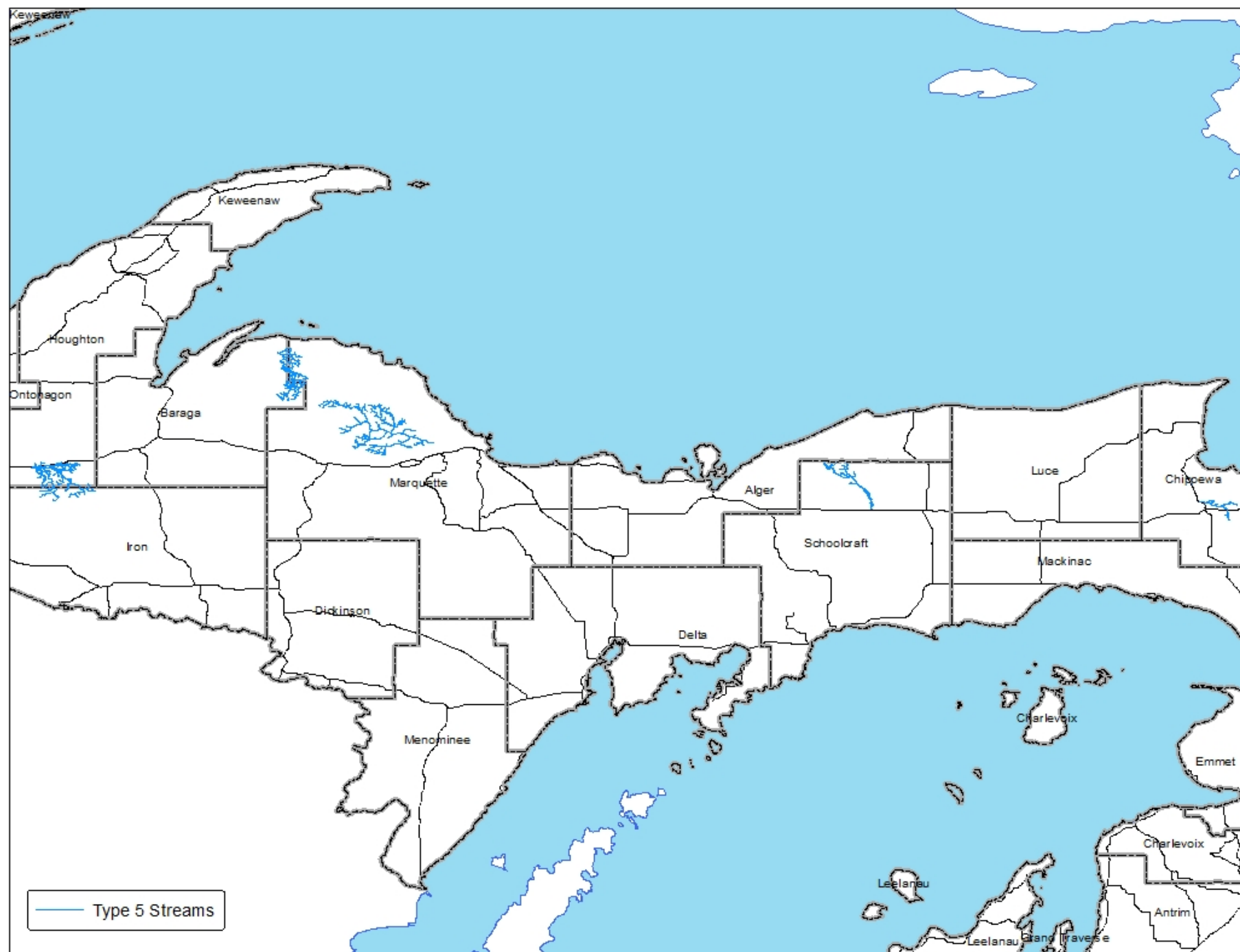
- Our Review Process
 - Existing Type 1 stream
 - Not accessible to lake run BKT
 - Perception of fishing pressure
 - “Destination location”
 - Population status
 - Data availability
 - Land ownership
 - Enforceable boundary designations



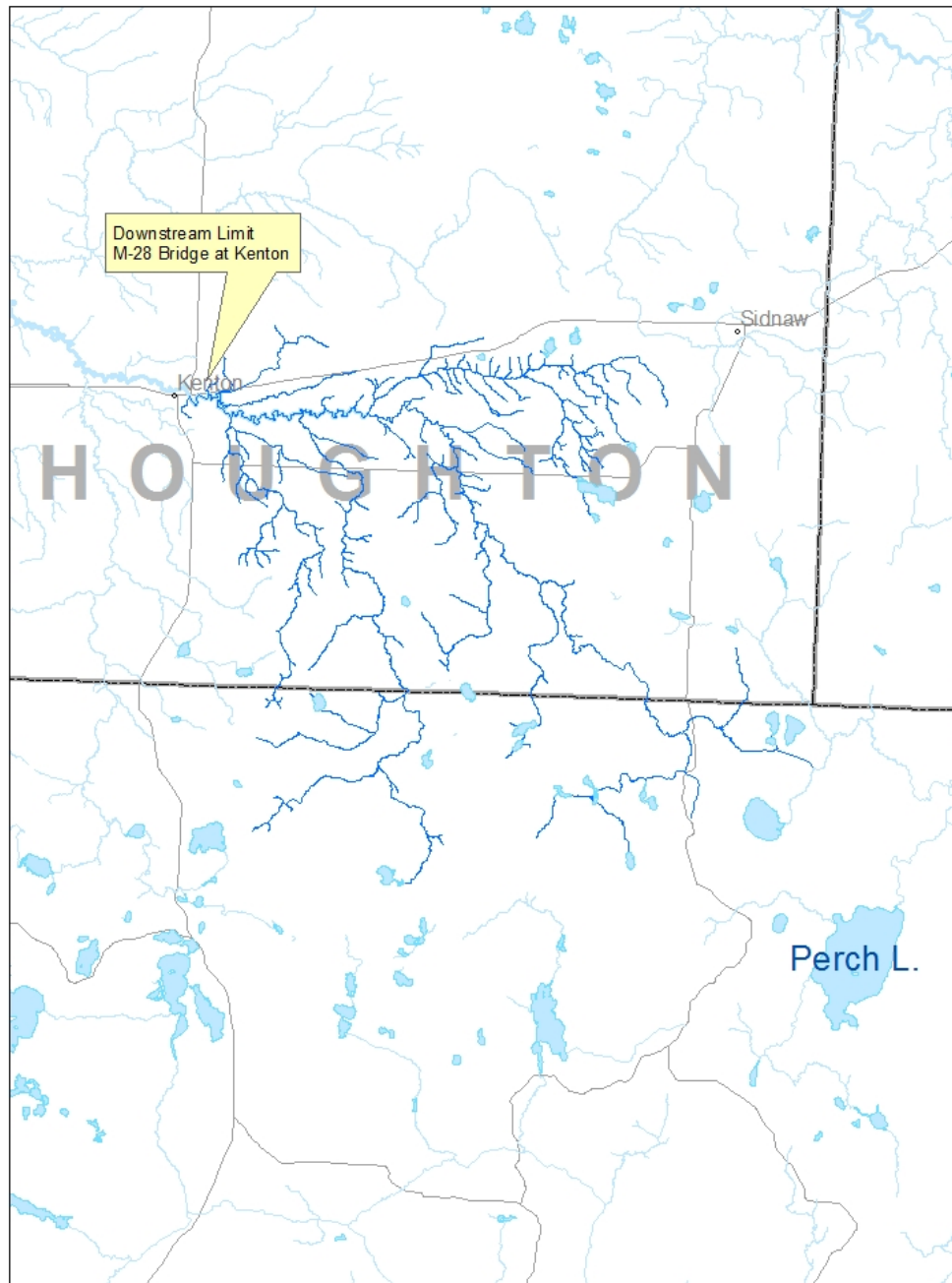
Brook Trout Bag Limits

- Five Streams
- Future evaluations and studies

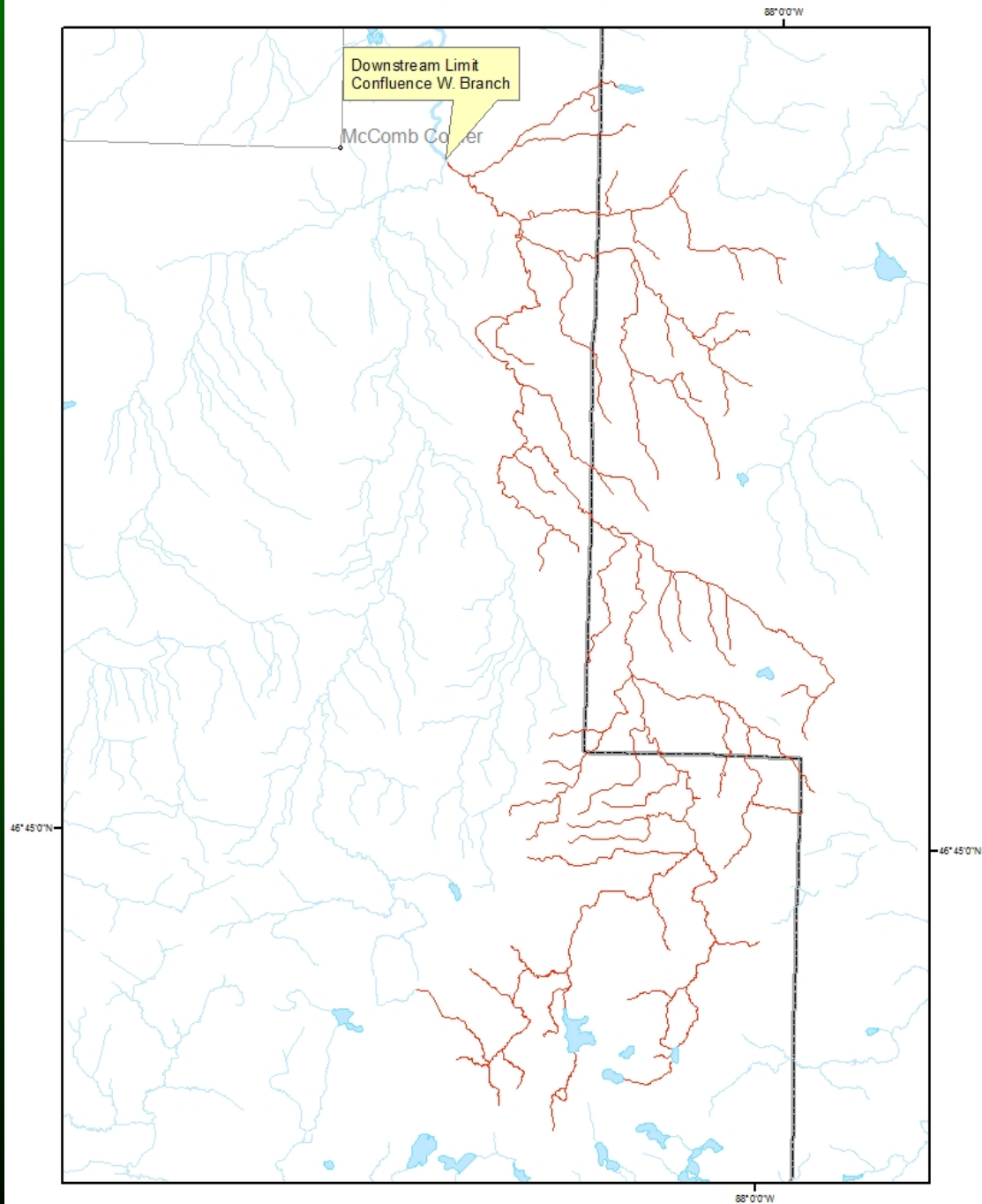




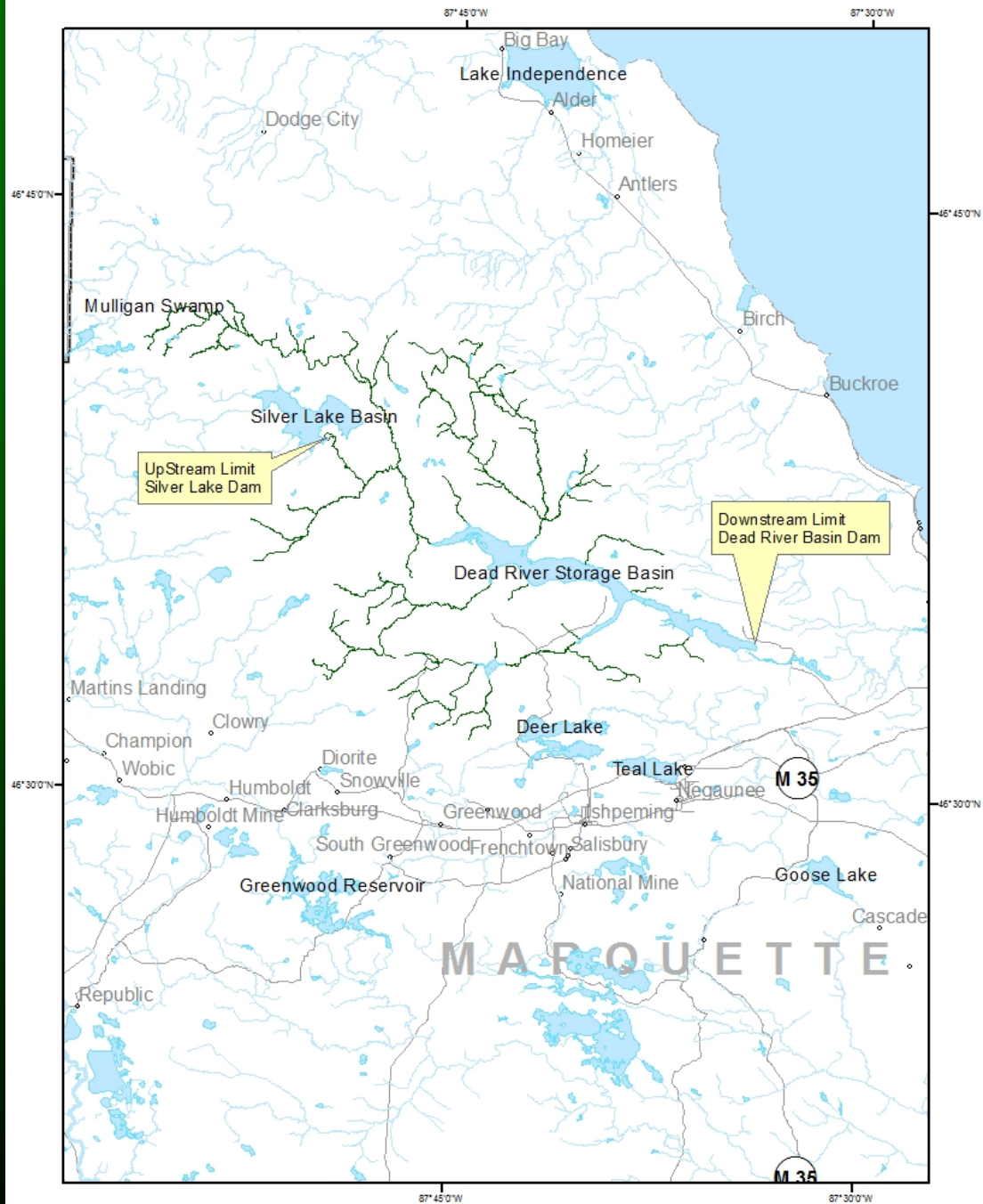
East Branch Ontonagon River



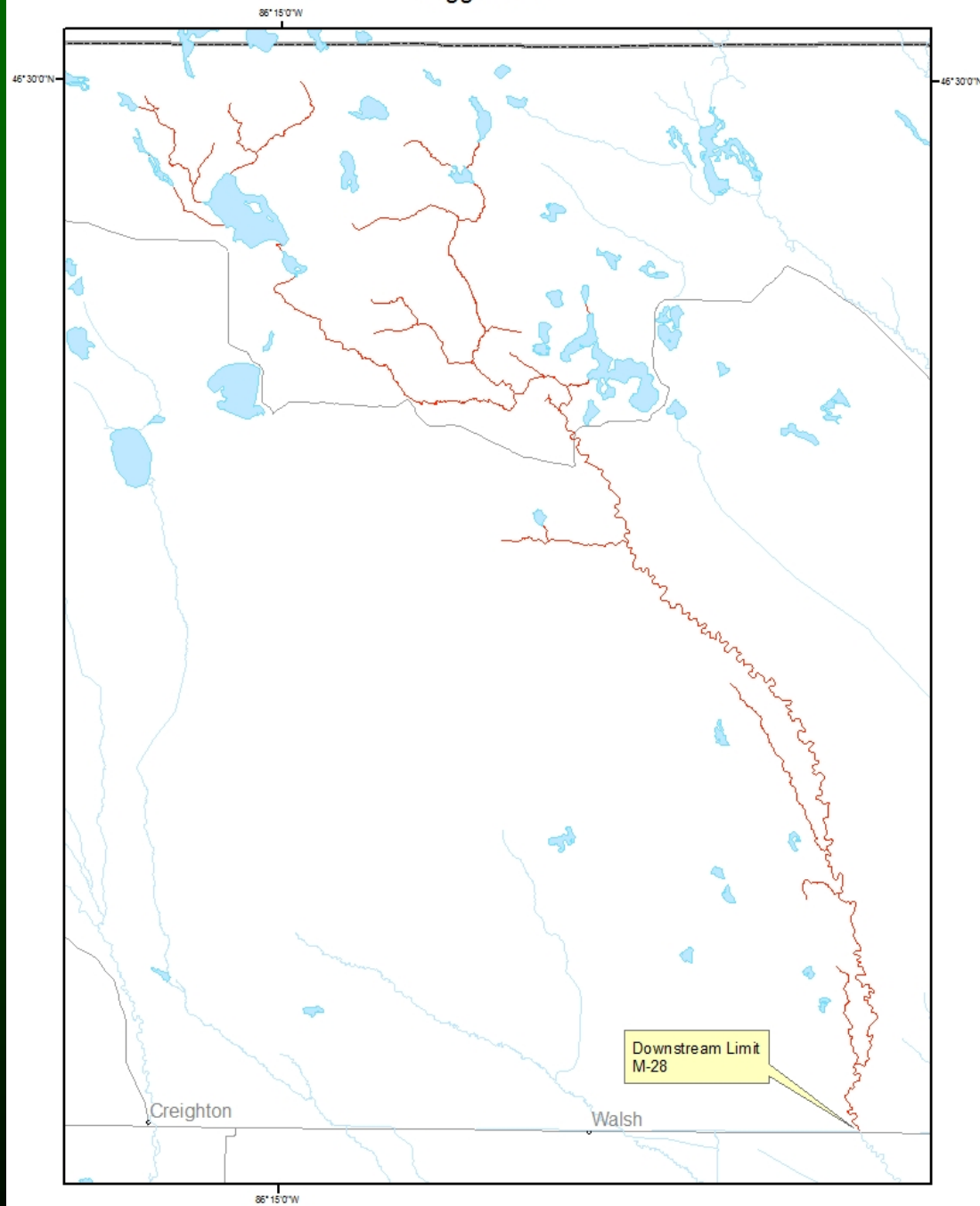
East Branch Huron River



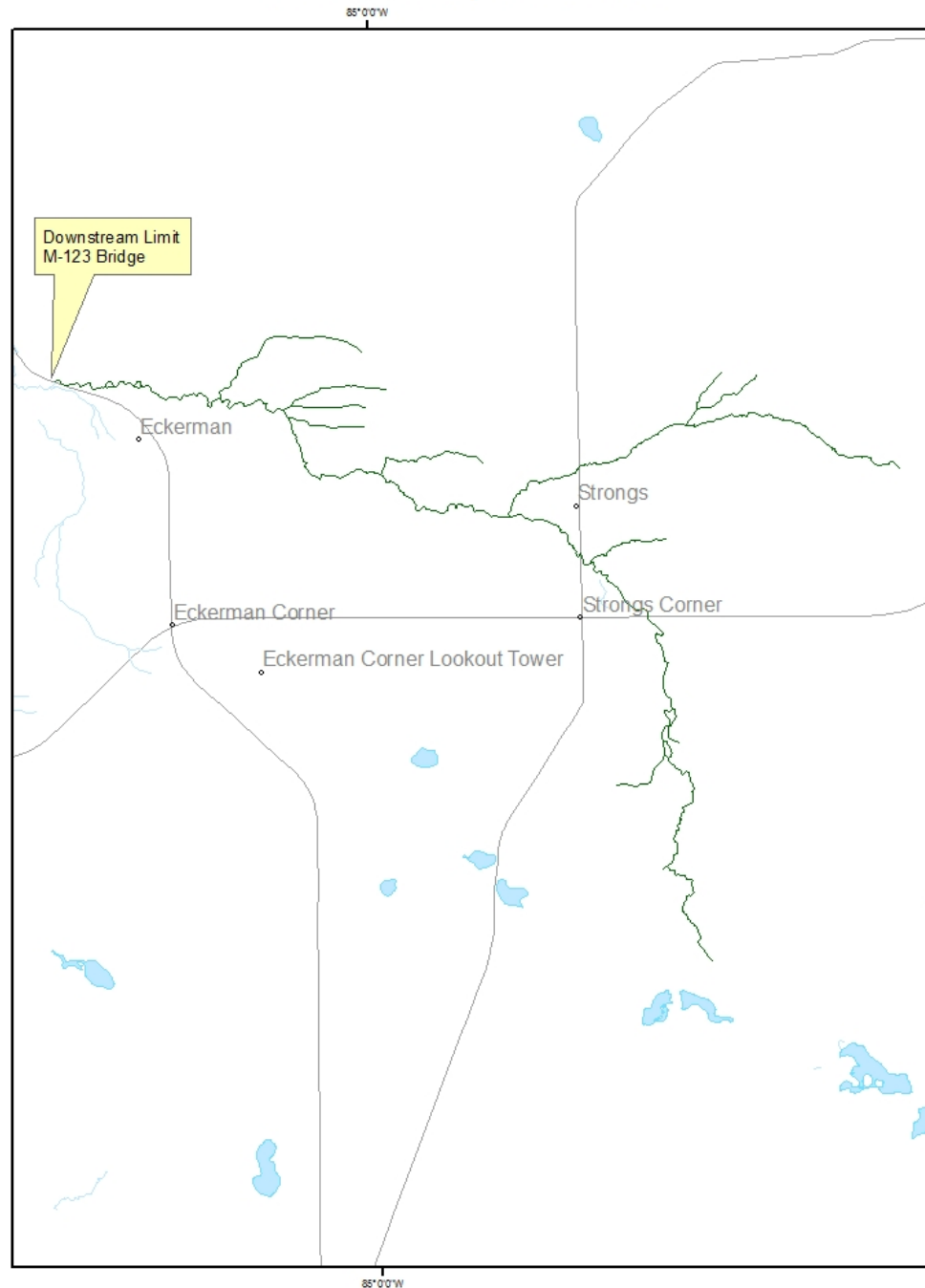
Dead River



Driggs River



East Branch Tahquamenon River



Thank You



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